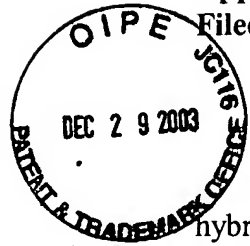


Appl. No. : 10/056,229
Filed : January 23, 2002



REMARKS

Claim 1 was additionally amended to recite "using common primers", and "direct hybridization". Support for the additional amendments can be found in the Specification as filed, for example, on page 6, paragraph [0021], page 7, paragraph [0026], page 10, paragraph [0044], page 11, paragraph [0050], and page 36, paragraph [0195]. Therefore, no new matter has been introduced herewith.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit the present application is fully in condition for allowance. If any issues remain that may be addressed by a phone conversation, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

· KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: Dec. 23, 2003

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